



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

May 7, 2012

**Memorandum**

To: NCDOT Strategic Management Committee (SMC)

From: Mike Bruff, PE  
Manager, Transportation Planning Branch

Subject: US 1 Strategic Highway Corridor Reclassification Request

On April 10, 2012, the Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) received a formal request from Moore County and the towns of Aberdeen, Pinebluff, Southern Pines, and the Village of Pinehurst to reclassify the strategic highway corridor (SHC) designation for US 1 in Moore County from one uniform designation of "freeway" to a multitude of designations that match current conditions.

This request was precipitated by the public involvement process associated with the ongoing development of the Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and resolutions passed by the Moore County Board of Commissioners on December 5, 2011. The resolutions stated the county's opposition to any recommendations that might include a US 1 bypass through the Walthour Moss Foundation or to any area referred to locally as "Horse Country". The resolutions also stated the locals desire to drop the SHC Freeway designation for US 1 and to reclassify based on its current cross sections. *(Please see attachments for US 1 existing US 1 classifications and location boundaries for Horse Country as defined by local stakeholders and Walthour Moss Foundation leadership.)*

The towns of Aberdeen, Pinebluff, Southern Pines and the Village of Pinehurst also passed similar resolutions to the county and, in addition, requested that NCDOT conduct an Origin and Destination study associated with the US 1 corridor. These resolutions were included in the formal request for reclassification forwarded to NCDOT by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Triangle Rural Planning Organization (TARPO). While the TAC approved the request for re-designation, the Technical Coordinating Committee of the RPO had previously voted to defer the request until all relevant information could be collected and the CTP study was complete.

The regional response to the re-designation request has been strong with counter resolutions being passed and remitted to NCDOT in support of the current SHC designation by the Lumber River Rural Planning Organization (LRRPO). Likewise, the town of Hamlet and the city of Rockingham submitted resolutions "vehemently" opposing the removal of the freeway designation as well as any changes to the current or future segments of the US 1 Bypass in Richmond County. Rockingham also expressed concern over how changes in the designation might impact the future funding of planned US 1 improvements in Richmond County. *Please see attached resolutions.*

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BRANCH  
1554 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH NC 27699-1554

**NCDOT TPB**  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BRANCH  
<http://ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/tpb/>

**LOCATION:**  
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING  
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27601  
Phone: 919-707-0900  
Fax: 919-733-9794

Based on the ongoing CTP development and the opposition to the re-designation on a regional basis, it is recommended that the SMC defer any action until such time as the Moore County CTP is complete and the Department completes a comprehensive review of the SHC system.

As stated earlier, the Transportation Planning Branch has an update underway to the Moore County CTP. The study includes collecting and analyzing data; and building an updated travel model to analyze the existing transportation system under future traffic conditions to identify where improvements will be needed. As part of the CTP update, TPB will explore different improvement scenarios that: 1) will meet the mobility and safety needs of the region through the study period 2040; 2) maintain consistency with all current statewide plans and visions for the SHC of US 1; 3) promote the welfare and safety of the motoring public; and 4) account for the local priorities of the county and its municipalities.

The Department is in the process of updating its statewide transportation plan (2040 Plan). One of the action items from the plan update is an update of the North Carolina Multimodal Investment Network (NC MIN). The SHC's are a subset of NCMIN and represent the highest designation (statewide tier). Using updated tools (Statewide Model) and looking at the SHC's on a system wide basis, will allow the Department to consider changes holistically rather than in a piecemeal fashion. In addition, the SHC's were approved by the NC Board of Transportation in conjunction with our other planning partners; the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Commerce. Any major changes should include these agencies as well.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Moore County CTP Project Engineer (Frances Bisby, [fdbisby@ncdot.gov](mailto:fdbisby@ncdot.gov)), the SHC Project Engineer (Tyler Bray, [tbray@ncdot.gov](mailto:tbray@ncdot.gov)), or me ([mbruff@ncdot.gov](mailto:mbruff@ncdot.gov)).